

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 169345
ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00
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PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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OSD/ISA:EMELANSON
IO:GHELMAN
EUR/RPM:JHAWES ; EUR/EE:KBROWN
ARA:JKING
NEA:JMONTVILLE
AF:SFPATRICK

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R 201950Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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PAGE 02 STATE 169345

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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: PARM, USUN, EGEN

SUBJECT: MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS (MEL) - SUB-MISSIONS TO UNSYG FOR USE BY EXPERTS' GROUP

REF: (A) STATE 110066; (B) STATE 124416; (C) GENEVA 4392;
(D) BUCHAREST 4448 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS ACTION ADDRESSEES TO ENCOURAGE HOST GOVERNMENT PROVISION OF TECHNICAL COMMENTS ON THE UNSYG REPORT RELATING TO THE MEASUREMENT AND INTER-

NATIONAL REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES (A/31/222). END SUMMARY.

2. A SERIES OF UN STUDIES HAVE IDENTIFIED AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR REPORTING MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN COMPARABLE TERMS AS A VALUABLE STEP TOWARD MUTUAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS (MEL). AN EXPERTS GROUP WAS COMMISSIONED BY UNGA RESOLUTION 31/87 (THIRTY-FIRST SESSION, 1976) TO CONSIDER MEMBER STATE RESPONSES TO THE 1976 REPORT OF THE UNSYG ON THE MEASUREMENT AND INTERNATIONAL REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES (A/31/222). REF A GIVES US RESPONSE. REF B CONTAINS INSTRUCTIONS FOR US PARTICIPANTS TO THE FIRST MEET-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 03 STATE 169345

ING OF THE CURRENT EXPERT GROUP IN MAY.

3. SUMMARY RESULTS OF FIRST EXPERTS GROUP MEETING (REF C) FOLLOW:

A. SUBMISSIONS OF MEMBER STATES WHO RESPONDED TO UNSYG'S REQUEST FOR VIEWS WERE COMPILED. (BYELORUSSIA SSR, FINLAND, ITALY, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TONGA, USSR, USA, UK, WESTERN SAMOA).

B. CONTENT, SIGNIFICANCE, AND DEFICIENCIES OF THESE RESPONSES WERE DISCUSSED.

C. A TENTATIVE OUTLINE WAS FORMULATED; DRAFTING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE NEXT EXPERT GROUP MEETING WERE ASSIGNED.

D. THE GROUP ASKED UNSYG FOR MORE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (RESPONSES) BY MEMBER STATES AND THE SYG DID SO JUNE 21 IN A LETTER TO MEMBER STATES.

E. US, UK, AND SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVES AGREED TO PROVIDE THE GROUP AS MUCH ADDITIONAL RELEVANT MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE EXPERTS MEET AGAIN IN AUGUST.

4. THE REPORT WHICH THE EXPERTS PLAN TO PREPARE THIS YEAR AIMS AT DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF A PILOT STUDY OR

TRIAL DEMONSTRATION OF AN INTERNATIONALLY APPLICABLE INSTRUMENT FOR REPORTING MILITARY EXPENDITURES. THE RESPONSES TO THE SYG'S INITIAL REQUEST FOR COMMENTS (PARA 3.A. ABOVE) WERE FEW IN NUMBER (ONLY 12 STATES RESPONDED), BRIEF, AND, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, TECHNICALLY UNINFORMATIVE. THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS ACTION ADDRESSEES TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS TO STIMULATE MORE SUBSTANTIAL, DETAILED RESPONSES TO THE SYG'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND TO COMPLEMENT THE EXPERTS' OWN REQUESTS NOTED ABOVE (PARA 3.D.).

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PAGE 04 STATE 169345

5. WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, THE EXPERT GROUP'S REPORT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY SUSTAINING POSITIVE MOMENTUM IN DEVELOPMENT OF MEL REPORTING INSTRUMENT. THE REPORT WILL ACQUIRE GREATER IMPORTANCE AS WE PREPARE FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD), WHERE THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS MAY FIGURE AS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. MOREOVER, THE REPORT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION HAS POTENTIAL VALUE FOR CONFIDENCE-BUILDING AND ARMS CONTROL PURPOSES TO THE EXTENT THAT IT PROMOTES THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTING OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES IN A STANDARD, COMPARABLE FORMAT BY ALL, INCLUDING THE USSR AND DEVELOPING NATIONS. AN ACTUAL REPORTING SYSTEM COULD ALSO SUPPORT OTHER ARMS CONTROL PURPOSES.

6. GENERAL TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY ACTION ADDRESSEES WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS FOLLOW. SPECIFIC COUNTRY ORIENTED POINTS ARE SUGGESTED IN SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPHS:

-- NEXT SPRING THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT MAY CONSIDER THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REALLOCATING RESOURCES TO CIVIL PURPOSES.

-- THE UNSYG HAS PREPARED A REPORT (A/31/P22) ON THE MEASUREMENT AND INTERNATIONAL REPORTING OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES. FURTHERMORE, UN RESOLUTION 31/87 INVITED ALL STATES TO SEND THEIR COMMENTS TO THE SYG BY APRIL 30, 1977.

-- THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP (US INCLUDED) WHICH MET TO ANALYZE THE RESPONSES OF STATES, FOUND THAT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE RESPONSES WERE GENERALLY DEFICIENT IN SUBSTANCE AND DETAIL, THUS MAKING THE JOB OF REPORTING PROGRESS
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PAGE 05 STATE 169345

ON THE STUDY VERY DIFFICULT. THE SYG CONCURRED IN THIS CON-

CLUSION AND REITERATED HIS REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON 21 JUNE.

-- THE US VIEWS THIS REPORT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE REPORTING STANDARDS AND SUPPORTS ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CONTINUING SYSTEMATIC AND CAREFUL DEVELOPMENT OF A REPORTING FRAMEWORK. WE HAVE SUBMITTED OUR COMMENTS ON THE REPORT AND HAVE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS ON A TRIAL BASIS TO SUPPLY US BUDGETARY DATA IN THE FORMAT PROPOSED FOR THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL REPORTING INSTRUMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY ARE WORTHY OF WIDESPREAD INTEREST BY MEMBER STATES.

-- IN ORDER TO DISCOVER AND RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF COMPARISON OVER TIME, WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EVALUATE DATA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IN ADDITION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARDIZED REPORTING INSTRUMENT IS BOTH SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE AND PRECISE TO CHARACTERIZE AND COMPARE EXPENDITURE DATA FROM DIFFERENT NATIONAL ACCOUNTING PRACTICES, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM COUNTRIES WHICH REPRESENT THE MAIN TYPES OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEMS.

-- WE THEREFORE URGE GOVERNMENTS TO LOOK SERIOUSLY AT THE SYG'S REPORT (A/31/222), IDENTIFY THE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT AGENCIES AND THE REAL PROBLEMS THEY WOULD FACE WERE THEY TO REPORT MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN THE FORMAT PRESCRIBED, AND SEND OR EXPAND THEIR RESPONSE TO THE SYG. (FYI: ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CURRENT NEED TO SUPPLY ACTUAL BUDGET DATA IN THE FORMAT PROPOSED FOR THE STANDARD REPORTING INSTRUMENT, COUNTRIES SHOULD CERTAINLY BE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO. WE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO IDENTIFYING AND ENCOURAGING

THOSE TECHNICALLY COMPETENT AGENCIES IN BUDGET OR DEFENSE MINISTRIES WHOSE ASSISTANCE WILL BE ESSENTIAL AND WHOSE NATURAL INCLINATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE TO OVEREMPHASIZE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 06 STATE 169345

PROBLEMS IN RESPONDING TO ANY REQUEST FOR DATA. END FYI.)

7. THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS ARE SUGGESTED FOR USE AT POSTS' DISCRETION IN ATTEMPTING TO STIMULATE GREATER INTEREST ON THE PART OF HOST GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONDING TO SYG.

FOR BELGRADE:

-- YUGOSLAVIA HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN SSOD PREPARATIONS. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESSFUL, POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF ONE OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THAT FORUM.

FOR BUCHAREST (AND POSSIBLY BELGRADE):

-- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS TO TEST THE

PROPOSED FORMAT AGAINST INFORMATION FROM DIVERSE TYPES OF ECONOMIES. IN VIEW OF ROMANIA'S KNOWN PAST INTEREST IN MILITARY EXPENDITURE LIMITATION, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOR WILL WISH TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THIS WORK. (FYI BUCHAREST: WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN FURTHER INFORMATION ON POSSIBILITY SUGGESTED REF D, THAT ROMANIA MAY MAKE A REDUCTION OF BUDGETS PROPOSAL IN CSCE. HOWEVER, WE ARE LETTING EUROPEAN ALLIES TAKE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE AND DO NOT WISH TO RAISE IT OURSELVES AT PRESENT TIME. EMBASSY SHOULD NEVERTHELESS REPORT ANY COMMENTS VOLUNTEERED ON ROMANIAN CSCE APPROACHES. END FYI)

FOR MEXICO:

-- AS A CO-SPONSOR OF RESOLUTION 31/87 WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO WILL WISH TO SUBMIT FURTHER INFORMATION FOR USE BY THE EXPERT GROUP.

FOR BUENOS AIRES AND BRASILIA:

-- AS MEMBERS OF THE CCD WITH REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA, WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 07 STATE 169345

WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE THEIR FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS.

-- SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A SUCCESSFUL WORKING GROUP REPORT COULD HAVE MAJOR BENEFITS BY REINFORCING ARMS RESTRAINT IN OUR HEMISPHERE.

FOR NEW DELHI:

-- INDIA PARTICIPATED IN EARLIER EXPERTS GROUPS ON THIS SUBJECT. WE HOPE THAT INDIA WILL CONTINUE ITS INTEREST IN THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

FOR PRAGUE:

-- CZECHOSLOVAKIA PARTICIPATED IN EARLIER EXPERTS GROUPS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATION OF STATES WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, WE WOULD URGE RENEWED ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

FOR LAGOS:

-- WE WERE ENCOURAGED THAT NIGERIA SENT AN OBSERVER TO THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA (MAY 31-JUNE 3) AND HOPE THE FMG INTENDS TO FOLLOW UP ITS INTEREST BY SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL DATA AND COMMENTS ON THE SYG'S REPORT. NIGERIA SHOULD ALSO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER STATES IN THE REGION TO RESPOND.

FOR PARIS:

-- EMBASSY SHOULD ASK CURRENT FRENCH VIEWS; SUGGEST THAT GIVEN THE PASSAGE OF THIS EXERCISE BEYOND ITS ORIGINS IN SOVIET REDUCTION OF BUDGET PROPOSALS, GOF MAY WISH TO CON-

SIDER A RESPONSE TO THE SYG'S REQUEST FOR NATIONAL VIEWS.
(FYI: IN AUGUST 1976, DR. ABE BECKER, US REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE PREVIOUS EXPERTS GROUPS MET WITH ANDRE MISTRAL WHO IN-
DICATED IN GENERAL TERMS THAT FRANCE MIGHT BE WILLING TO
PURSUE A MORE SYMPATHETIC APPROACH TO THE MILITARY EXPENDI-
TURE REPORTING ISSUE. WE HAVE HAD, HOWEVER, NO FURTHER
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PAGE 08 STATE 169345

WORD OF FRENCH VIEWS. END FYI.)

8. LONDON, BONN AND TOKYO MAY WISH TO EXPLORE CURRENT
THINKING OF HOST GOVERNMENTS ON HOW THIS MATTER MAY BEST BE
MOVED FORWARD. STOCKHOLM MAY WISH TO INQUIRE ON THE STATUS
OF WORK TOWARD THE ADDITIONAL SWEDISH SUBMISSION. WE DO
NOT JUDGE IT USEFUL TO APPROACH THE SOVIETS AT THIS TIME
BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY HAVE.

9. IF ANY ACTION ADDRESSEES BELIEVE THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS
SHOULD NOT BE APPROACHED AT THIS TIME, PLEASE INFORM DE-
PARTMENT, INDICATING RATIONALE.

10. REFTELS ARE BEING REPEATED AS REQUIRED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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